

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 547

By Chumney

A RESOLUTION To recognize Jennifer Helton Hann on the  
occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those outstanding staff members who during their careers have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer Helton Hann is one such estimable person who has served with probity for two and one-half years as a Senior Legislative Attorney with the Office of Legal Services; she came to the Legislative staff from the Office of the Attorney General and Reporter, where she served with great professional skill and acumen, beginning on August 28, 1978, as an Assistant Attorney General in the Criminal Justice Division, and later the General Civil Division; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer's abilities were soon recognized and appropriately acknowledged; on March 1, 1984, she was appointed Deputy Attorney General for the General Civil Division, serving in that capacity until her departure in 1998 to join the Office of Legal Services; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hann was among the first women to serve as a Deputy Attorney General; during her career there she served on the Ethics Committee, was involved in

numerous cases of major litigation, and was an instructor for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy; and

WHEREAS, This summer Jennifer will retire from her career with the state, and move with her husband Charles to a beautiful location in Washington County in her native Northeast Tennessee; the Hanns will enjoy the beauty of the area along with their assorted dogs, cats and llamas; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer was born in Kingsport, Tennessee; she received her undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and earned her Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the UT College of Law; and

WHEREAS, While a student at law school, Jennifer worked as a grant administrator for the Judicial System Education Program; on September 27, 1976, she accepted a position with the Office of the Executive Secretary to the Supreme Court as a Judicial Planner and Staff Attorney; and

WHEREAS, As a Senior Legislative Attorney with the Office of Legal Services for the General Assembly, Jennifer was assigned to work with the House Committee on Children and Family Affairs as its primary legal counsel, served as counsel for the Select Committee on Children and Youth, assisted with staffing the Senate General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee and the House Health and Human Resources Committee and was co-counsel for the Select Oversight Committee on TennCare; through her legal work and expertise, she has positively impacted the health and well-being of the children of this state, and has provided legal support for TennCare throughout its development and implementation; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hann has contributed much expertise and intellectual energy to the crafting and development of the parenting plan legislation, which gives visibility to the best interests and needs of children, the most vulnerable and least heard of parties in the family law arena of divorce; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer was responsible for the crafting of language for the Tennessee Teen Court Program Act of 2000, in which the power and potential of Tennessee's youth are recognized, enabling them to be participants in the administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hann's staff work has contributed to legislation allowing local level stakeholders to design and implement child protection systems within their own communities that prevent the maltreatment of children and strengthen families; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; she is the proud mother of Brian Andrew Small and has lent her time and considerable talents in service to numerous civic and charitable causes; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her career, Ms. Hann has been a faithful and diligent public servant, performing her important duties with intelligence, patience, acumen and dedication; she has provided superior legal service to legislators, government officials and the public at-large to ensure that the public's work is done in a thoroughly professional manner; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer's attributes of high intelligence, superior analytical ability and organizational skills, and an empathetic and caring personality have won for her the unbridled respect and admiration of her peers and superiors alike; she will be sorely missed in the legislative hallways as a colleague and friend; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we extend to Jennifer Helton Hann our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.